

ORIGINAL

DK 99.25

**From:** Dustin Fehr <herring@urjet.net>  
**To:** ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
**Date:** Wed, Jul 21, 1999 2:57 PM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Dustin Fehr (herring@urjet.net)  
on Wednesday, July 21, 1999 at 13:57:07

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AUG 02 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

comments: I support the creation of low power FM licenses.

address: 2470 South 1700 East

city: Salt Lake City

state: UT

zip: 84106

Submit: Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman  
Commissioner Gloria Tristani  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals  
455 Twelfth Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore  
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition  
cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

MM Docket No. 99-25  
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people

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tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition ([mec@tao.ca](mailto:mec@tao.ca)) and Americans for Radio Diversity ([ard@radparker.com](mailto:ard@radparker.com)), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose

interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
2. Licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable to all communities, easy to apply for and limited to one per license holder; they should NOT be businesses.
3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.
4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to "secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses from low-power community stations just because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.
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12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

Again, we commend Chairman Kennard and the Commission for your willingness to address these issues. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio licensing becomes a reality during the Chairman's present term. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible for our local communities.

Signed,

MEC Honorary Chair:  
Robert W. McChesney, Madison

Steering Committee:  
Sara Zia Ebrahimi, Philadelphia  
Diane Fleming, Philadelphia  
Peter Franck, San Francisco  
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.  
Alan Korn, San Francisco  
Greg Ruggiero, New York City

Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University  
Nancy Kranich--Librarian  
Ron Daniels--Executive Director, Center for Constitutional Rights  
George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement  
Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania  
Janine Jackson--Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting  
Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego  
Juliet Schor--Harvard University  
Mark Crispin Miller--New York University  
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Stuart Ewen -- Author  
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Al Lewis--Organizer ("Grandpa" from the Munsters)  
Dee Dee Halleck--Deep Dish TV  
Ben Bagdikian--University of California, Berkeley  
Loretta Ross--Executive Director, National Center for Human Rights Education  
David C. Korten, Author, and Chair of the Positive Futures Network,  
publishers of YES Magazine  
Carl Jensen--Founder, Project Censored  
Ellen Braune--Publicist  
Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology  
Efia Nwangaza -- Attorney/Coordinator, Greenville Malcolm X Grassroots  
Movement for Self Determination

Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press  
Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert  
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author  
Gloria Steinem--Ms.  
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL

DK 99-25

**From:** <clamstrips@earthlink.net>  
**To:** K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...  
**Date:** Wed, Jul 21, 1999 1:29 PM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,  
Commissioner Gloria Tristani,  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554  
cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore,  
Bill Bradley, and George W Bush  
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

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In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities.

In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition ([mec@tao.ca](mailto:mec@tao.ca)), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

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5. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines. Their property should be returned. They should be granted equal opportunity in applying for and receiving new licenses.
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Peter Franck, San Francisco  
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Robert W. McChesney-- University Of Illinois, Urbana  
Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University  
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Juliet Schor--Harvard University  
Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego  
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author  
Gloria Steinem--Ms.  
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=

name=Courtney Hudak

street=515 North 50th #303

city=Seattle

state=WA

zip=98103

=Send to FCC

ORIGINAL

DK99-25

**From:** Lia R. Craven <lia\_craven@hotmail.com>  
**To:** ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
**Date:** Wed, Jul 21, 1999 2:10 PM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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This email was submitted by Lia R. Craven (lia\_craven@hotmail.com)  
 on Wednesday, July 21, 1999 at 13:10:56

AUG 02 1999

comments: As an artist just trying to find her feet it would be encouraging to know that this country values free speech ( since that was part of the founding documents of our country after all)

After all, what makes a country great-including America-is its innovators who bring new ideas to energize and educate the culture. Our country will stagnate if new ideas aren't allowed expression-think what the world would be like without new ideas, without Einstein, Stephen Hawking, Thomas Edison. The chance to share ideas allows ideas to develop and then benefit the community and world. Allow freedom and know that as artists we realize the responsibility this freedom carries and the possibilities to better the world.

Thank you for your time, A concerned artist

address:

address2: 2408 10th Ave.E

city: Seattle

state: WA

zip: 98102

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman  
 Commissioner Gloria Tristani  
 Commissioner Michael Powell  
 Commissioner Susan Ness  
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Federal Communications Commission  
 The Portals  
 455 Twelfth Street S.W.  
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cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore  
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Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert  
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author  
Gloria Steinem--Ms.  
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

**From:** Lonnie Glasscock <lonnie\_glasscock@dell.com>  
**To:** ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
**Date:** Wed, Jul 21, 1999 10:11 AM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

ORIGINAL DK-99-25  
**RECEIVED**

This email was submitted by Lonnie Glasscock (lonnie\_glasscock@dell.com)  
on Wednesday, July 21, 1999 at 09:11:00

AUG 02 1999

comments: I fully support the creation of a Low Power FM Radio System in the US, especially in the interests of helping promote and nurture community involvement and representation on the airwaves.

address: 1806 Larchmont Dr.

city: Austin

state: TX

zip: 78704

Submit: Send to FCC

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Diane Fleming, Philadelphia  
Peter Franck, San Francisco  
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.  
Alan Korn, San Francisco  
Greg Ruggiero, New York City

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**Movement for Self Determination**

Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press

Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

Barbara Ehrenreich--Author

Gloria Steinem--Ms.

Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist

Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

**From:** Jennifer Brown <seduction15@excite.com>  
**To:** ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
**Date:** Wed, Jul 21, 1999 2:01 PM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

ORIGINAL DK 99-25

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This email was submitted by Jennifer Brown (seduction15@excite.com)  
on Wednesday, July 21, 1999 at 13:01:58

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

comments: I am strongly for this. This will give a chance for me to listen to more local or underground music, and give local musicians the a great opportunity to reach more people. Also, I'm dissatisfied with mainstream radio. I hope that this will give me the opportunity to listen to what I want to listen to, instead of what the music corporation wants me to listen to. I think that our rights as Americans to have this privilege. So, please give us our right.

address: RT. 12 Box 560

city: Lake City

state: FL

zip: 32025

Submit: Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman  
Commissioner Gloria Tristani  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals  
455 Twelfth Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore  
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition  
cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

MM Docket No. 99-25  
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

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One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their

communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition ([mec@tao.ca](mailto:mec@tao.ca)) and Americans for Radio Diversity ([ard@radparker.com](mailto:ard@radparker.com)), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

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Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press

Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

Barbara Ehrenreich--Author

Gloria Steinem--Ms.

Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist

Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

**From:** Serena Renee Cissell <starla@visi.com>  
**To:** ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
**Date:** Wed, Jul 21, 1999 10:04 AM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Serena Renee Cissell (starla@visi.com)  
on Wednesday, July 21, 1999 at 09:04:41

comments: I believe in non-commercial radio. The voice of America should have a forum that is non-commercial. Having LPFM radio that is more open to the public would go a long way toward accomplishing this goal.

address: 6045 Lyndale Ave. S. #236

city: Minneapolis

state: MN

zip: 55419

Submit: Send to FCC

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Commissioner Gloria Tristani  
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Commissioner Susan Ness  
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